Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

Claim 1 (**currently amended**). An illuminating optical system for illuminating a mask using light from a light source, said illumination optical system comprising:

a shape varying mechanism for continuously ~~making~~ varying a shape of an effective light source ~~variable~~,

wherein said shape varying mechanism comprises ~~includes~~:

a first stop plate that has a first aperture part for allowing the light to pass through the first aperture part; and

a second stop plate that has second aperture part for allowing the light that has passed through the first stop plate through the second aperture part, and

wherein the first and second stop plates are rotatable around an optical axis of the light.

Claim 2 (**currently amended**). An illumination optical system according to claim 1, wherein said effective light source has two independent areas that decenter from ~~an~~ the optical axis ~~of the light~~.

Claim 3 (**currently amended**). An illumination optical system according to claim 1 wherein said effective light source has four independent areas that decenter from ~~an~~ the optical axis ~~of the light~~.

Claim 4 (**original**). An illumination optical system according to claim 1, wherein the first aperture part is almost equal in shape to the second aperture part.

Claim 5 (**original**). An illumination optical system according to claim 1, wherein the first and second aperture parts have one of shapes of a sector, a circle, an ellipse, and a polygon.

Claim 6 (**original**). An illumination optical system according to claim 1, further comprising a shape adjusting mechanism for adjusting a shape of the effective light source.

Claim 7 (**original**), An illumination optical system according to claim 6, further comprising a detector for detecting a shape of the effective light source at an exit side of said shape adjusting mechanism.

Claim 8 (**original**). An illumination optical system according to claim 6, wherein the shape adjusting mechanism includes optics to change a relative ratio of an area of the effective light source.

Claim 9 (**original**). An illumination optical system according to claim 8, wherein the optics has a cone or polygonal shape.

Claim 10 (**original**). An illumination optical system according to claim 1, wherein the shape varying mechanism includes at least one cylindrical lens, inserted into and ejected from an optical path of the light at a side of the light source, for adjusting an aspect ratio of the effective light source.

Claim 11 (**original**). An illumination optical system according to claim 10, wherein a direction of a generating line of the cylindrical lens is rotatably adjusted on a surface orthogonal to optical axis of the light of the effective light source.

Claim 12 (**currently amended**). An illumination optical system according to claim 1, wherein said effective light source has a sectional area that decenters from ~~an~~ the optical axis ~~of the light~~.

Claim 13 (**original**). An illumination optical system according to claim 12, wherein said shape varying mechanism varies a shape of the sectoral area in a radial direction continuously.

Claim 14 (**currently amended**). An exposure method comprising the step of illuminating a mask that arranges a contact-hole pattern and an auxiliary pattern smaller than the contact-hole pattern, using an illumination optical system for illuminating the mask using light from a light source so as to resolve the contact-hole pattern and restrain the auxiliary pattern from resolving,

wherein said illumination optical system includes a shape varying mechanism for continuously ~~making~~ varying a shape of an effective light source ~~variable~~,

wherein said shape varying mechanism comprises ~~includes~~:

a first stop plate that has a first aperture part for allowing the light to pass through the first aperture part; ~~and~~

a second stop plate that has a second aperture part for allowing the light that has passed through the first stop plate through the second aperture part; and

wherein the first and second stop plates are rotatable around an optical axis of the light.

Claim 15 (**currently amended**). An exposure apparatus comprising:

an illumination optical system for illuminating a mask using light from a light source; and

a projection optical system for projecting light from said illumination optical system onto an object to be exposed,

wherein said illumination optical system includes a shape varying mechanism for continuously ~~making~~ varying a shape of an effective light source ~~variable~~,

wherein said shape varying mechanism comprises ~~includes~~:

a first stop plate that has a first aperture part for allowing the light to pass through the first aperture part; and

a second stop plate that has second aperture part for allowing the light that has passed through the first stop plate through the second aperture part; and

wherein the first and second stop plates are rotatable around an optical axis of the light.

Claim 16 (**currently amended**). A device fabricating method comprising the steps of:

exposing an object using an exposure apparatus; and

performing a predetermined process fro the object that has been exposed,

wherein the exposure apparatus comprises ~~includes~~:

an illumination optical system for illuminating a mask using light from a light source; and

a projection optical system for projecting light from said illumination optical system onto an object to be exposed,

wherein said illumination optical system includes a shape varying mechanism for continuously ~~making~~ varying a shape of an effective light source ~~variable~~,

wherein said shape varying mechanism comprises ~~includes~~:

a first stop plate that has a first aperture part for allowing the light to pass through the first aperture part; and

a second stop plate that has second aperture part for allowing the light that has passed through the first stop plate through the second aperture part; and

wherein the first and second stop plates are rotatable around an optical axis of the light.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached 1 sheet(s) of drawings reflect changes to Figure(s) 1 and replace the original sheet(s) of these Figure(s).

Attachments: Replacement Sheet(s)